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Cease-Fire Developments

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12 June 1973

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Cease-Fire Developments

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SOUTH VIETNAM

The Military Situation

Military activity dropped to the lowest level in nearly a week, with most of the action now concentrated in the delta. South Vietnamese forces are continuing security operations in several areas, with particular stress on the southern portions of Chuong Thien and Dinh Tuong Provinces, according to Military Region 4 commander General Nghi. Nghi also told the US consul general in Can Tho that he had ordered defoliation operations in Chuong Thien and An Xuyen provinces, where relatively sharp fighting continues.

Only limited action was reported in the Saigon region; neither side was doing more than defensive patrolling. In the north, the Communists continued their harassment of government units in the coastal provinces, but at a much reduced level. Apparently as a result of the lull, a long-postponed redeployment of South Vietnamese airborne, army, and marine units in the northern three provinces is scheduled to start today.

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Government Orders Recapture of Villages

The commander of Military Region 2, General Toan, reportedly has ordered a three-battalion task force with armor support to retake the ground west of Kontum City that was lost to the Communists over the weekend. This action comes on the heels of yesterday's rout of a government territorial unit from positions near the Communist-held village of Trung Nghia. Communist gunners directed mortar fire against government positio s northwest and southwest of the city yesterday,

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Talke Stalled Completely

The negotiations in Vientiane have apparently ground to a halt. The government's chief negotiator, Pheng Phongsavan, has not met with Phoumi Vongvichit since 7 June. He stated that the government has compromised as much as it can and that the negotiations will make no progress until the Communists make some concessions. Prime Minister Souvanna late last week seemed convinced that the Communists are waiting for the results of the Paris talks before showing their hand.

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The Military Situation

Khmer Communist troops launched an attack against Thnal Totung some 20 miles west of Phnom Penh along Route 4 early on 12 June after cutting the highway west of that village. At last report, government forces still controlled the village. Elsewhere, government troops abandoned another small outpost along Route 2 some 20 miles from Phnom Penn on 11 June and set up new positions closer to the capital. ment sweep operations west of Route 3 have been suspended, and all troops have been rulled back to defensive positions along the highway about 15 miles from Phnom East of the capital, the Communists on 11 June launched new attacks against several small government positions along the west bank of the Mekong River opposite Neak Luong. The Communists probed other government positions along Route 15 north of Neak Luong on the same day, inflicting light casualties.

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